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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Testudines, Chelidae: *Hydromedusa tectifera*: Distribution extension in Brazil

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The genus *Hydromedusa* comprises two recognized species, *H. maximiliani* (Mikan, 1820) and *H. tectifera* Cope, 1869 from southern South America (Ernst and Barbour 1989, Fritz and Hava 2007). The geographic distribution of *Hydromedusa tectifera* is restricted to Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay (Pritchard 1979; Ernst and Barbour 1989; Lema and Ferreira 1990; Fritz and Hava 2007). In Brazil, the range of this species was restricted to the São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Paraná, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul states (Pritchard 1979; Ernst and Barbour 1989; Lema and Ferreira 1990; Lema et al. 2002; Ribas and Monteiro Filho 2002; Rocha et al. 2004; Santos et al. 2005; Ghizoni-Jr and Graipel 2005; Souza, 2005; Noleto et al. 2006; Pontes et al. 2006; Quintela et al. 2006; Fagundes and Bager 2007; Fritz and Havas 2007), in locations at sea level up to 1120 m above sea level (Ribas and Monteiro Filho 2002; Souza 2005; Pontes, et al. 2005; Quintela et al. 2006). According to Souza (2005) all records of this species are in the Atlantic rainforest biome. However, this species was recorded in the Pampa biome by Fagundes and Bager (2007).

On 26 July 2006, one juvenile of *H. tectifera* (Figure 1-2) (carapace length = 112.4 mm, body mass = 165 g) was hand-captured, photographed and released in the Ritápolis (21°00'02.42" S, 44°18'16.09" W, 1051 m above sea level), southeast of state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, inside in the *cerrado* biome.

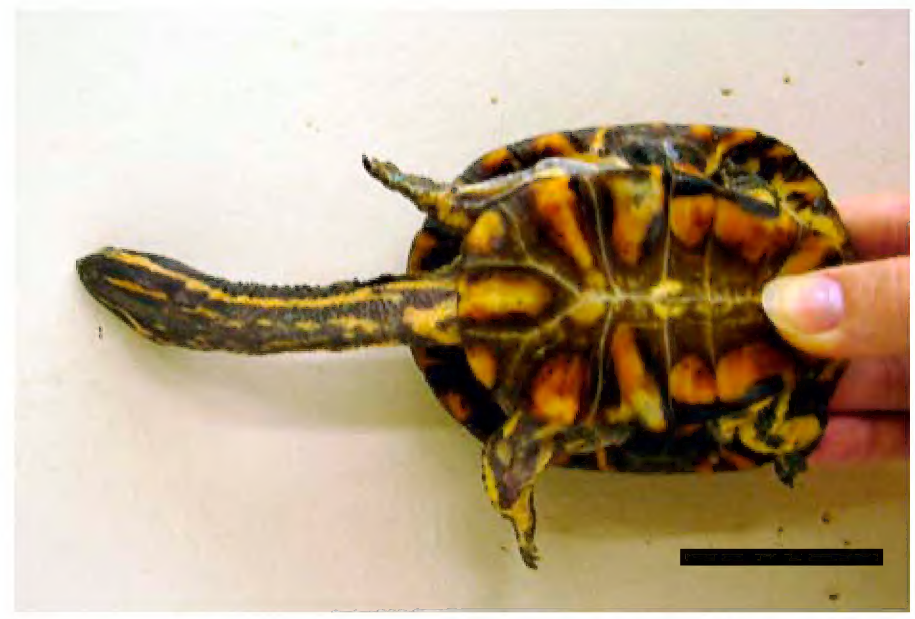

Figure 1. Ventral view of juvenile *H. tectifera* collected at the municipality of Ritápolis, Minas Gerais state (scale bar = 5 cm).

Collecting permits was authorized by Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (*Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis* - IBAMA) (Proc. # 02015.010660/05-88).

The record here reported extend the known geographical distribution of *H. tectifera* ca. 210 km northwest from the nearest record in the municipality of Teresópolis, *Parque Nacional da Serra dos Órgãos* (22°30' S, 43°02' W), state of Rio de Janeiro (Pontes et al. 2006). Until the current study *H. tectifera* was considered as exclusive species of the Atlantic rainforest biome (Souza 2005), and this occurrence constitutes the first record of this species in the *Cerrado* biome, and in the state of Minas Gerais.

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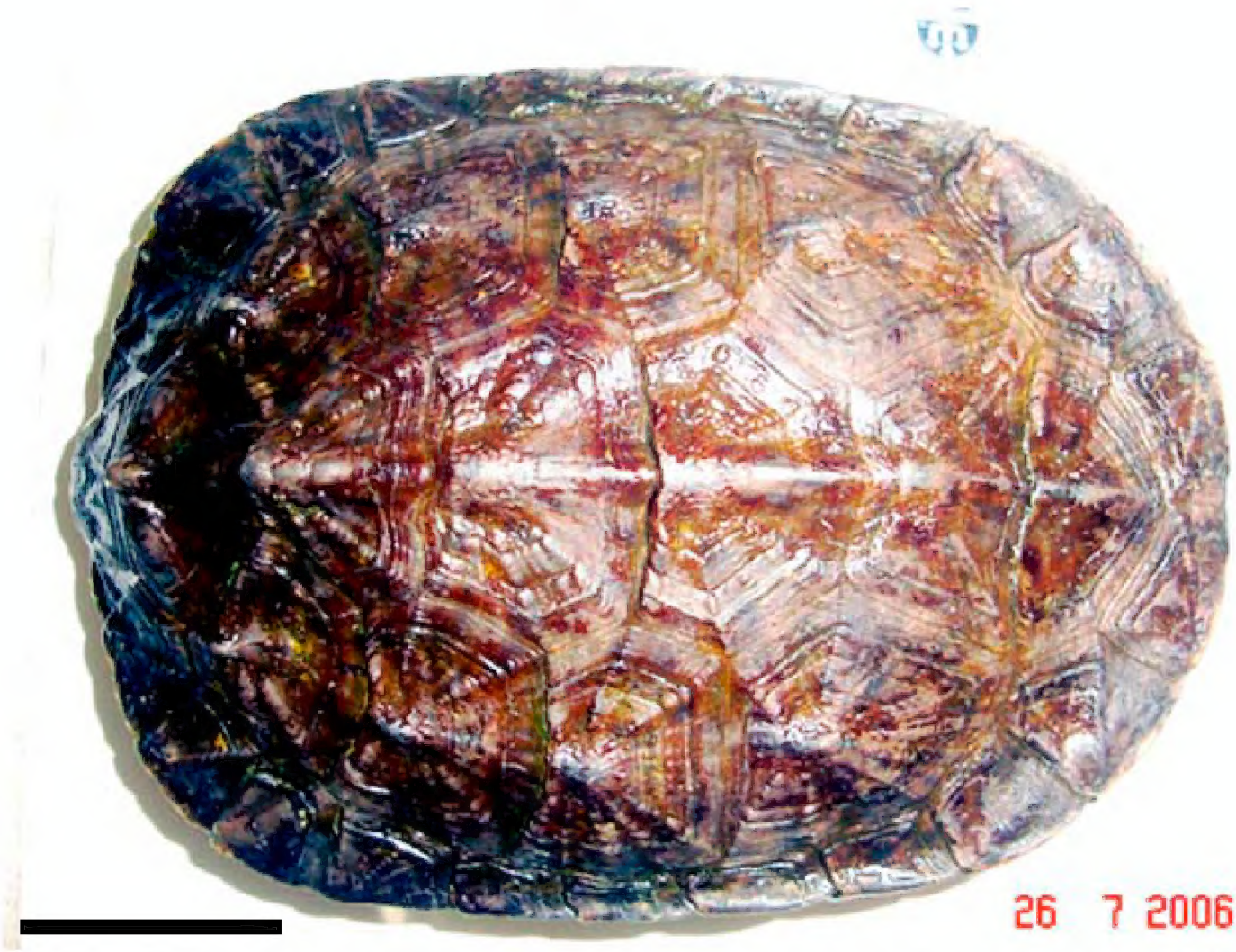

Figure 2. Dorsal view of carapace of juvenile *H. tectifera* collected at the municipality of Ritápolis, Minas Gerais state (scale bar = 3 cm).

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